

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CU-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 120736Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7671

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USNATO 579

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0818

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, UR

SUBJECT: SOLZHENITSYN

REF: WARSAW 458

1. THE HIGHLY RESPECTED ELDER STATESMAN OF POLAND'S LITERARY WORLD, ANTONI SLONIMSKI, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS ON FEBRUARY 8 THAT NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE BY THE POLISH AUTHORITIES TO GET POLISH WRITERS TO LEND THEIR PENS OR VOICES TO ATTACKS ON SOLZHENITSYN. SLONIMSKI SAID THAT THE GOP KNOWS THAT POLISH WRITERS WOULD STRONGLY RESIST THIS AND, THUS, HAS WISELY REFRAINED FROM TAKING ANY SUCH ACTION.

2. SLONIMSKI SAID THAT IN A RECENT HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION
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OF CULTURAL POLICY, JAROSLAW IWASZKIEWICZ, PRESIDENT OF

THE UNION OF POLISH WRITERS, CRITICIZED SOLZHENITSYN AS ANTI-POLISH AND A THIRD-RATE WRITER. PARTY SECRETARY SZLACHCIC IS SAID TO HAVE RESPONDED THAT HE COULD AGREE THAT SOLZHENITSYN WAS ANTI-POLISHBUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT HE COULD BE DISMISSED AS A THIRD-RATE WRITER.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY OFFICERS' QUESTIONS, SLONIMSKI SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT MOST POLISH WRITERS HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR SOLZHENITSYN, BOTH AS A WRITER AND AS AN HONORABLE MAN OF GREAT COURAGE. SLONIMSKI ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD EXCERPTS FROM GULAG ARCHIPELAGO ON RFE, WHICH IMPRESSED HIM BOTH WITH ITS LITERARY QUALITY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS MESSAGE. HE SAID THAT GREAT INTEREST AND CURIOSITY ABOUT THE BOOK WAS BUILDING UP AMONG POLISH INTELLECTUALS.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED NO FURTHER ATTACKS ON SOLZHENITSYN IN THE POLISH PRESS SINCE THOSE REPORTED IN THE REFTEL.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE AGING IWASZKIEWICZ IS HIGHLY RESPECTED FOR HIS LITERARY TALENT AND CREATIVITY, FOR YEARS HE HAS BEEN COMMONLY REGARDED AS A PLIANT TOADY OF THE REGIME. SZLACHCIC, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEMS TO BE GAINING SOMETHING OF A REPUTATION AMONG INTELLECTUALS AS WELL-READ AND MORE REASONABLE IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURAL POLICY THAN MANY WOULD HAVE EXPECTED, GIVEN HIS POLICE BACKGROUND.
DAVIES

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NNN

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